

FEDERAL REGISTER - 42 CFR Ch. 1 (10-1-93 Edition)
PART 5 - DESIGNATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (HPSAs)

Summary of **Appendix C** - Criteria for Designation of Areas Having Shortages of
Mental Health Care Professionals

Designations are based on the degree of underservice for a geographic area, population group, or a facility (Community mental health centers and other public or non-profit private facilities; medium-maximum security federal and state correctional institutions; State and County Mental Hospitals).

Requirements for Geographic Mental Health HPSA: 1) Rational service area, e.g., established mental health catchment area per the State Mental Health Plan; 2) Population:psychiatrist ratio of 30,000:1; 3) Contiguous area resource considerations (excessively distant = 40 minutes travel time; over utilized; otherwise inaccessible).

Requirements for Determination of Unusually High Needs for Mental Health Services: 1) Rational service area 2) Population:psychiatrist ratio of 20,000:1; 3) plus one of the following: a) 20% or more of the population is < 100% of the FPL; b) the youth ratio is greater than 0.6; c) the elderly ratio is greater than 0.25; or d) alcohol or substance abuse prevalence data showing the area to be in the worst quartile of the nation, state, or region.

Requirements for Population Group Mental Health HPSA: 1) Rational service area, e.g., established mental health catchment area per the State Mental Health Plan; 2) Low income, Medicaid-eligible, migrant farm worker, Native American, homeless populations; 3) 20,000:1 population: psychiatrist ratio in the defined rational service area; 4) Contiguous area resource considerations (excessively distant \geq 40 minutes, over utilized, otherwise inaccessible).

Population Count: For a geographic Mental Health HPSA designation, the population count = Total permanent resident civilian population, excluding inmates of institutions. The most recent Claritas database is the primary data source for the population count. For a population group MHPSA, the population count = the number of people in a specific population group; i.e., low-income, Medicaid eligible, migrant farm worker, Native American, homeless.

Psychiatrist Count: The psychiatrist count = All non-Federal MDs/DOs certified as a psychiatrist or is board eligible and is practicing psychiatry and is licensed to do so by the state. Full-time-equivalencies (FTEs) are based on 40 hours of direct patient care per week. FTEs for practitioners providing direct service for less than 40 hours per week are adjusted accordingly. Interns/residents = 0.5 FTE. Hospital staff psychiatrists involved exclusively with inpatient and ER care are excluded from the count. Psychiatrists in full time positions in correctional institutions, youth detention facilities, residential treatment centers for emotionally disturbed or mentally retarded children, and inpatient units of State or County mental hospitals are excluded. Graduates of foreign medical schools who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents are excluded. (Note: Ratios for the other mental health professions can be found in the Federal Register - 42 CFR Ch. 1 (10-1-93 Edition) Part 5, Appendix C.)

Contiguous Area Considerations: 1) Psychiatrists are more than 40 minutes travel time from the population center(s) being considered for designation; 2) Contiguous area population-to-FTE psychiatrist ratio is in excess of 20,000:1; 3) Psychiatrists in contiguous areas are inaccessible because of specific access barriers; i.e., linguistic, cultural, economic barriers.

Benefits of HPSA Designation: 1) National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Assistance for recruitment and retention of psychiatrists in underserved areas; 2) Rural Health Clinic Certification; 3) CMS's 10% Medicare Incentive Program for geographic designations; 4) Eligibility for state and local resources; i.e. State Loan Repayment Program.